CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Graduate Studies News

Published by: *The Graduate Studies Office*

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Vol. 3, No. 3, April, 1988

From the Dean's Desk

Graduate Program Profile:

Diploma in Communication Studies

Diploma in Library Studies

Diploma in Art Therapy

Graduate Profile

From the Dean's Desk: The Prix d'Excellence

After several months of deliberations, the **prix d'excellence** offered annually by the Chambre de commerce de Montréal for the best doctoral thesis written in a Montreal university or one of its affiliated schools, is now a reality. By creating such a prize the Chambre de commerce is displaying its esteem for the role of academic life in our social, cultural and business worlds and thereby showing appropriate leadership. The first such prize will be awarded at the Annual Gala of L'Académie des Grands Montréalais on October 13, 1988.

The selection of a single thesis as the most outstanding, from Concordia, Ecole Polytechnique, Haute Etudes Commerciales, McGill, Université de Montréal, or Université du Québec à Montréal in the calendar year 1987, presents a formidable task for the universities and the Chambre de commerce.

How will this very exacting selection be done?

All doctoral candidates who have successfully defended their theses can apply to their respective departments (or program directors, in the case of interdisciplinary programs) to be considered for nomination for the prize. In addition to submitting a copy of their thesis for consideration, these students must prepare a discussion of their work that describes the originality of the thesis, the short and long term impact of the results of the thesis on the disciplines involved, and which delineates its broader impact on our scientific, cultural, social, academic, or economic life, as the case may be. The department in which the thesis was written must provide a supporting argument for the nomination. The departmental recommendations are then considered by the respective Deans of Graduate Studies in consultation with their faculties. Each Dean may recommend a maximum of four theses to the Chambre de commerce for final selection. The evaluation of these theses within each university will take place in June and July.

The winning thesis will be selected in September by a joint committee consisting of the four Deans of Graduate Studies and four representatives of the Chambre de commerce.

Since it is virtually impossible to devise a list of specific criteria that is valid for all disciplines, it is clear that the choice of the **best thesis** must involve considerations that include both the quality of presentation of the thesis and the ability of the writer to understand and explain the consequences of the results of the thesis to the community at large. The selection process therefore focuses not only on sound scholarship, but also on the intellectual breadth and maturity of the author.

The entire process by which the decisions will be taken is an exercise that encourages and demands a reflection by all students and profes-

sors involved in the true meaning of the name **Philosophiae Doctor.** It is no accident that **philosophy** is the generic name for all disciplines because there is a breadth and depth of thought at this level of study which is not bound by narrow disciplinary ideas. The creation of the **prix d'excellence** will have an impact on the quality of graduate studies that goes far beyond the choice of one thesis among many. It will heighten our awareness of the educational and civilizing aspect of our work that often gets lost in the urgency of specialized activities. In their quest for **academic excellence**, all Graduate Schools in Montréal therefore enthusiastically participate in this competition.

This new form of collaboration between the Chambre de commerce and the Montréal universities is an important component in the recognition of Montréal as *the* Canadian **Cité Universitaire.** It also underlines the role of universities as custodians of knowledge and pioneers in research.

M. E. Szabo

Graduate Studies Newsletter

Diploma in Communication Studies

Communication Studies is by its very nature interdisciplinary – the reason it is one of today's fastest growing fields. Applications to Concordia's Communications Diploma program reflect this: the department can accept only 20 each year – one out of every four students who apply.

"It seems to indicate we're moving from an industrial society to a society of information," said Scot Gardiner, director of the diploma program. "Students recognize that – and recognize that important questions are going to be asked about information – and that jobs are going to be there."

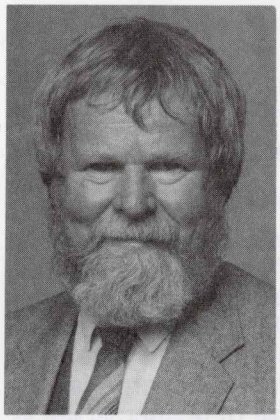
These jobs are to be found working for newspapers, television, radio, film, public relations, advertising and a number of media and information related fields: the communications industry is growing quickly because society is becoming dependent upon access to information and the people who can provide it.

"There's room to develop in 'narrowcasting' – as opposed to 'broadcasting'," said Gardiner. "Instead of developing 'I Love Lucy' for a large audience a person can develop video productions for a narrow audience...documentaries, educational videos, Jane Fonda exercise tapes. A penetration of VCRs into society and phenomenal distribution systems are making it possible for small companies to develop specialized videos for specialized audiences."

"The boom in home computers and video cassette recorders has opened new doors in communications careers. Computer-based media like interactive video and video graphics combine these two growing fields," said Gardiner, "and production equipment is getting smaller and cheaper. We can now talk about desk-top video production – there are editing devices for editing frame by frame and pixel by pixel – and digitalized special effects."

Concordia graduates have distinguished themselves in the communication industry: 1982 graduate Lori Stahlbrand co-hosts a CBC radio afternoon show in Toronto. A year after Marie Brissette graduated in 1982 she landed a job as a director with a production company, now she directs a talk show for Quatre Saisons. Philip Szporer, who graduated that same year, now works for CBC radio. Now 18 years old, the program's list of success stories is extensive.

Some students see the program as a condensed introduction to this new and exciting field, while "others see it as a qualifying year to get into the M.A. program. The strength of the department is well reflected in the diploma program: it covers both theory and production," he added. "Students take three production courses in video, film, and sound production."



Communication Studies Diploma Program Director Scot Gardiner

Students applying to the program must write a letter of intent, said Gardiner, "which shows why they want to come here and we compare that with what the program provides so we can determine whether we're good for them as well as their being good for us." Applicants are required to have a bachelor's degree, normally in another discipline and entry into the program is granted after careful scrutiny of the backgrounds and goals of prospective students.

Anyone interested in applying to the Diploma on Communications Studies should write to W. L. Gardiner, Acting Program Director, BR 317, 7141 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec, H4B 1R6, or call (514) 848-2539.

Graduate Studies News

Library Studies Diploma

How is tapioca produced? When was the Titanic scheduled to arrive in New York had it not sank into its watery grave? What were the names of the foreign ministers in Germany, Italy and France in August 1914?

These questions are just a sample of the challenges librarians are faced within the course of an average day, says Judy Appleby, head of Vanier library at Concordia's Loyola campus.

"People still have the classical stereotype image of a librarian as someone who stamps books," said Appleby. "Today librarians do computerized searching, answer reference questions and teach people how to use libraries."

Access to information is important in an information-oriented society. This is the reason graduates of Concordia's Diploma in Library Studies are finding jobs as paraprofessionals and library associates not only with school libraries, but with corporations, government ministries, hospitals, and any organization that needs quick access to information.

A demand of this scope makes Concordia's 33-credit graduate Diploma in Library Studies an attractive choice for people who have an undergraduate degree and are looking for a way to augment career options.

Students already employed by libraries often enrol in the program Locke noted, because they can go to school part-time and upgrade their academic qualifications. Most courses are offered at night to accommodate schedules of working students. Students can take up to four years to complete the degree if they want to go to school part-time, or they can finish it in two years and one semester by taking courses offered during the day.

Job opportunities are as varied as the kind of information an organization needs to access. Recent graduates are working for companies like the Bank of Montreal; Sandoz; and Peat, Marwick and Mitchell, a financial consulting agency; and public institutions like the Royal Victoria Hospital and the transport development centre of Transport Canada. They are also employed by school and public libraries, where they select and organize material needed by students and members of the community at large.

Many organizations need material catalogued and referenced – which creates a need for people who know how to organize and access information and package it in a logical manner.

"Computers play a strong role in libraries," Locke said. "We had graduates working at (The Montreal) Gazette to help put The Gazette 'on line'. The information has to be indexed before it can be put into a data base."

Appleby agrees that computer searches have become an integral part of library services. Computers that go "on-line" – which links them to information stored in other library computers – not only increase the information available to library users, but facilitate and speed up research.

A colleague of Appleby's was once able to delight a member of a foreign delegation of professors from China by accessing "on-line" information. "She printed out a list of articles that referred to work he had written in China," she said, "articles in which people from other countries had quoted him." Prompt, modern action of this order is the new image of the librarian.

Library Studies Diploma Program Director Joanne Locke

For further details about the diploma program, call (514) 848-2526, or write Joanne Locke, Acting Program Director for the Diploma in Library Studies – Concordia University, 7141 Sherbrooke Street West, TA 305, Montreal, Quebec, H4B 1R6.

February 3, 1988
Graduate Studies News

Art Therapy Diploma

Since the dawn of time when our ancestors painted the story of the hunt on cave walls, people have used art to express, explain and represent the world and themselves. Some artists will tell you that certain concepts, notions or feelings can be expressed only through art.

This dynamic and expressive character of art makes Art Therapy an exciting – and useful – tool in helping people get in touch with what they are feeling and thinking. People who have difficulty discussing what is troubling them can often draw, paint or sculpt something that symbolizes their emotions. Art Therapy encourages them to do that.

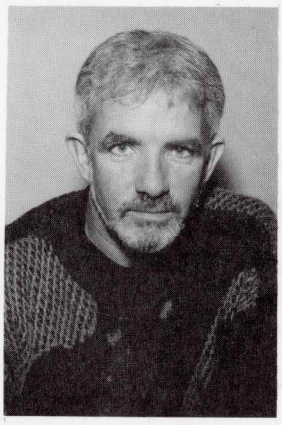
"It is used as a form of self-expression, self-communication, or for communication with other people," said Peter Byrne, acting director of

Concordia's Art Therapy Diploma program. "The creation of something is in itself therapeutic – as it helps people get in contact with the subconscious and with repressed experience and fantasies."

Art Therapy is used in combination with other diagnostic techniques to establish what is troubling a person, said Byrne. It can also be used to frame disturbing thoughts or ideas; in family art therapy, children can often express things in their drawings which are sometimes too painful for them to articulate. The process of expressing something through art can even defuse certain emotions.

The ability to work creatively with symbols is crucial in Art Therapy, and Byrne's department looks for this criterion when students apply for admission. An analogy test is given during an applicant's interview to find out if he or she is capable of working with symbols.

"We look for people with an emotionally mature attitude and who are able to work metaphorically and symbolically with people," he said. "We want people who can use a lot of self-expression too – not everyone is able to release and experience." As a result not everyone is suited to this program. Volunteer work or professional work with other people is also useful, he noted.



Art Therapy Diploma Program Director
Peter Byrne

The program was originally designed for people who are already professionals – psychologists, people in special education, occupational therapy, and nursing, who wanted to upgrade their knowledge about art and psychotherapy. In the five years since the program began, it has also developed into a stepping stone to the M.A. in Art Therapy.

"Following the program is a means by which the students determine if they want to become therapists," said Byrne. "They have a year to decide. Ninety-nine per cent of them decide to do the M.A. – so they must like it." Recently the American Art Therapists' Association approved the over-all program of studies of the diploma and the master's such that now these graduates will be certified art therapists.

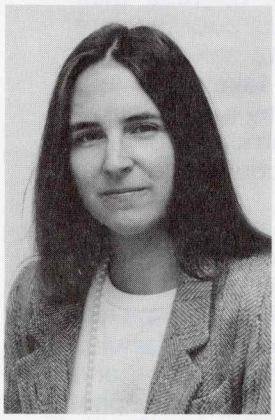
Many students pursue the M.A. because a diploma doesn't qualify graduates as therapists. Diploma graduates do work, however, as remedial art consultants and therapeutic art counsellors who help people work with projected drawing – drawing that is not just art but has a purpose. They can work with children, the elderly and with handicapped people through schools and community centres.

Byrne, who originally trained in Fine Arts as a painter and then in Art Education, said the art of psychotic patients drew him into Art Therapy. "It was an alternative form of art," he said. "I became more interested in the people who were making the art. In a way, I was seduced by the patients rather than the art itself; art therapy combined two interests."

For anyone interested in the Diploma in Art Therapy, please write P. Byrne, Acting Graduate Program Director, Diploma in Art Therapy, VA 220, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montréal, Québec, H3G 1M8, or phone (514) 848-4646.

Dr. Joan Power

Dr. Joan Power graduated from Concordia University in 1986 with a Ph.D. in Chemistry. Her thesis entitled, "Laser Studies of the Photophysics of Humic Substances", explored her research interests involving the design and construction of a laser thermal lens spectrometer incorporating a photodiode array detection system, and laser photophysical studies of humic materials in aqueous media, with the objective of obtaining information relevant to natural water photochemistry.



Dr. Joan Power

She was accepted into the doctoral program upon completion of her B.Sc. in Chemistry in 1982 and has been the recipient of a number of awards from NSERC and FCAR.

Since September 1987 she has been teaching at McGill University as Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry.

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typesetting: Centre Typographique
printing: Concordia Printing Services
photographs: B. McNeil